

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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LG CAPITAL FUNDING, LLC,

Plaintiff,

-against-

VAPE HOLDINGS, INC.,

Defendant.

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BEFORE:

HONORABLE LOIS BLOOM, U.S.M.J.

APPEARANCES:

For the Plaintiff:

KEVIN KEHRLI, ESQ.
MICHAEL STEINMETZ, ESQ.

For the Defendant:

MATTHEW PRESS, ESQ.

Court Reporter:

Holly Driscoll, CSR
Official Court Reporter
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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript
produced by Computer-Assisted Transcript.

1 THE COURT: Please be seated.

2 THE CLERK: Civil cause for hearing, docket number
3 16-CV-2217, LG Capital Funding, LLC against VAPE Holdings,
4 Incorporated.

5 Will the parties please state your appearances.

6 MR. KEHRLI: Good morning, Your Honor, Kevin Kehrli
7 of the law firm Garson, Segal, Steinmetz & Fladgate. With
8 me is Michael Steinmetz and behind me is Joseph Lerman from
9 LG Capital.

10 MR. LERMAN: Good morning, Your Honor.

11 MR. PRESS: Good morning, Your Honor, Matthew Press
12 for VAPE Holdings, Inc., Press Law Firm, PLLC.

13 THE CLERK: The Honorable Lois Bloom presiding.

14 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Kehrli, Mr. Steinmetz,
15 Mr. Lerman and Mr. Press.

16 This is a hearing on plaintiff's motion for
17 preliminary injunction against VAPE Holdings, Inc. and
18 Judge Amon has referred this matter to me for a Report and
19 Recommendation.

20 On May 3rd, 2016, LG commenced this action against
21 VAPE alleging breach of contract for VAPE's failure to comply
22 with the terms of the \$75,000 8 percent convertible redeemable
23 note that VAPE had issued to LG. Upon commencing the action,
24 plaintiff moved for preliminary injunction. Judge Amon denied
25 plaintiff's motion concluding that plaintiff had not

1 demonstrated irreparable harm, and that's at ECF 18.

2 After Judge Amon denied plaintiff's motion the
3 parties appeared before me for a settlement conference. At
4 that settlement conference on June 8th, 2016 the parties
5 settled this matter on the record and the settlement was
6 reduced to a writing signed by counsel for both sides on
7 June 24th, 2016, and that settlement agreement is found at
8 ECF number 25-4.

9 Under the terms of the settlement agreement, VAPE
10 was to place in plaintiff's counsel's escrow account \$151,000
11 by June 27th, 2016. In exchange, there would be a mutual
12 general release and LG would assign the note. VAPE failed to
13 remit the \$151,000 into plaintiff's counsel's escrow account
14 by June 27, 2016.

15 I then held three telephone conferences with the
16 parties on July 18th, July 20th, and July 26th as VAPE stated
17 that with time it would be able to satisfy its obligation
18 under the settlement agreement, however, no progress was made.

19 Accordingly, on August 4th, 2016, plaintiff's
20 counsel moved for a prohibitory injunction enjoining VAPE from
21 issuing further conversions under any and all outstanding
22 convertible instruments during the pendency of this action,
23 from issuing transfer agent instructions to reserve shares for
24 the purpose of conversions under any and all outstanding
25 convertible instruments during the pendency of this action,

1 from issuing any further convertible notes or other debt
2 instruments during the pendency of this action, and finding
3 that the posting of a bond would not be required under
4 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65.

5 I have reviewed and considered both sides' papers
6 and I am prepared to hear arguments today.

7 I note that plaintiff moves to strike defendant's
8 opposition to the motion because defendant's filing was made
9 approximately four hours late, that's ECF number 28. As no
10 prejudice was suffered by this short delay, that motion is
11 denied. Okay.

12 First question, Mr. Kehrli and Mr. Steinmetz, did
13 they pay \$151,000 into plaintiff's escrow account?

14 MR. KEHRLI: No, they did not, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Has VAPE made any payment toward the
16 settlement, full or partial?

17 MR. KEHRLI: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Now, I note before I came down the
19 parties asked for some time to discuss whether or not the case
20 could be resolved, so please bring me up to speed, Mr. Kehrli.

21 MR. KEHRLI: We did briefly discuss. In our
22 opinion, we did not get far at all. That's sort of all I can
23 say I guess. We did not find the conversation productive in
24 the end.

25 THE COURT: So, can you give me, other than what

1 you've said in your papers, whatever it is that you want to
2 argue. My question for you is what has changed regarding
3 VAPE's financial condition since the hearing before Judge Amon
4 on May 27 beside the breach of the settlement agreement in
5 this particular matter?

6 MR. KEHRLI: Well, I think it hinges on the two
7 contracts which Judge Amon cited and relied on in coming to
8 her decision, one of which was a term sheet whereby GHS agreed
9 to buy out all of the other outstanding notes, and the other
10 was an agreement to buy \$2 million worth of shares which GHS
11 had stated or which defendant, I apologize, had stated were
12 ample enough resources to draw on to satisfy all of their
13 outstanding notes and debts. Clearly, having gone through the
14 process of trying to draw on those ample resources, those
15 contracts -- well, the first is only a proposed term sheet so
16 it's essentially nonbinding to GHS, and the second, those
17 ample resources aren't exactly there for defendant to draw on.

18 The stock of GHS since -- or VAPE, I apologize
19 again, from the date of filing to today has gone down by
20 400 percent. It started at .006, today it is at .0015. That
21 means the value of the conversion which started this whole
22 action has also gone down by 400 percent. And basically we've
23 seen that VAPE does not have any resources to satisfy the
24 agreement which I genuinely believed that Mr. Press and the
25 CEO, Justin Braun, wanted to make to settle this matter. The

1 only other explanation, if they did not truly intend, was that
2 it was done in bad faith to lower the potential exposure in
3 this action which I did refer to in my papers but I genuinely
4 do not want to believe that that's the case.

5 THE COURT: Anything else that you want to add?

6 MR. KEHRLI: No, Your Honor, not at this time.

7 THE COURT: Now, Mr. Press.

8 MR. PRESS: Thank you, Your Honor. There are some
9 things I'd like to add. This is an extraordinary form of
10 relief they're seeking. In effect, what they are saying is
11 they want to cut off my client's access to loans. Now,
12 regardless of where a company is, from being a start-up to
13 being a very mature company, they need loans. It is very
14 important to running a business. A very mature company could
15 require loans in order to get through a lumpy income period
16 and it has nothing to do with the financial position of the
17 company, and what they want to do is cut it off.

18 What they actually admit on page 14 of their
19 memorandum of law, they admit that it could have a negative
20 effect of preventing VAPE from being able to raise any more
21 money. Now, that's very big problem. One of the things that
22 I told my colleagues in the hallway before was that they don't
23 want this relief because although VAPE right now is a
24 functioning company that has earnings and is moving along in
25 its business plan, if you took its ability to fund itself

1 along the way interstitially with loans, I suspect that it
2 would have to file Chapter 11, maybe not.

3 THE COURT: Let me stop you for a moment.

4 MR. PRESS: Yes.

5 THE COURT: You say VAPE right now is a functioning
6 company. The plaintiff argues that VAPE is imminently
7 insolvent because VAPE has approximately \$5 million in
8 liabilities which will be due in 12 months and only
9 approximately \$629,000 in assets. This is at Mr. Lerman's
10 declaration, paragraph 17. What is the financial status of
11 VAPE?

12 MR. PRESS: I think that what Judge Amon found,
13 which is similar to what Judge Sullivan found in a similar
14 case involving the same company earlier in the year, is that
15 VAPE is an emerging company and its debts are significant but
16 these are longer term debts. It is able to pay its bills.

17 What happened in this case was, and Your Honor knows
18 this because you were in the room, an agent or I think a
19 principal of GHS was on the phone with Justin Braun and said
20 that they would pay the \$151,000, the note assignment. In
21 effect, GHS, they're the lender. VAPE needs GHS and has to
22 work with it and GHS turned out to have a mind of its own.
23 After agreeing to pay the \$151,000 they attached some further
24 conditions. I didn't think the conditions were unreasonable,
25 we tried to take care of it and, in fact, Mr. Kehrli admits in

1 paragraph 12 of his declaration that GHS said that it was
2 willing to pay, it is just that it wanted to pay in three
3 pieces. Now, that wasn't what we agreed, I understand that,
4 but they're willing to pay.

5 THE COURT: Well, quite frankly, that VAPE needs GHS
6 and that GHS is controlling the purse strings here creates the
7 very untenable position that plaintiff finds itself in. It
8 relied in good faith on the CEO of VAPE who said that this
9 would conclude this --

10 MR. PRESS: Yes.

11 THE COURT: -- relationship and though you've made
12 the representation, Mr. Press, that I was in the room and
13 heard that the CEO, who's no longer the CEO of VAPE, was on
14 the phone with GHS, I did not have GHS on the phone, GHS is
15 not a party here and Mr. Braun was representing to the Court
16 that this would be a deal that GHS would sign on to. I did
17 not have GHS in the room, there is no GHS as a party to this
18 action. So, that VAPE needs GHS, I believe that the
19 plaintiffs are probably correct, GHS is using VAPE at this
20 point for its own purposes and perhaps GHS should have or
21 could have been named as a party to an action but they're not
22 before the Court and that's where we find ourselves.

23 But my question was really about your client's
24 financial solvency. When you say that they could go bankrupt,
25 the quotes that Mr. Lerman makes in his declaration I believe

1 are from a public filing, is there anything that has been
2 updated since that time?

3 MR. PRESS: Not that I'm aware of, Your Honor, but
4 what I would say, there is no material difference between the
5 financial condition of the company now and when Judge Amon
6 found that there wasn't irreparable harm or when Judge
7 Sullivan found in the Southern District that there wasn't
8 irreparable harm. That hasn't changed. They've been reliant
9 on lenders, that's known. They borrowed money from LG and
10 other companies. They're relying on lenders, they are, many
11 companies are. And so, in most companies if you said you
12 can't borrow, it would be a major problem.

13 Now, turning to where we are now and how we can
14 practically resolve this case. I was very surprised to see
15 this motion. I thought that they were going to renew their
16 original motion to try to convert their note, which I don't
17 think that they were entitled to, I think the judge was
18 correct. This motion would be highly destructive. What
19 they're seeking to do is to -- I believe it's self-defeating,
20 they're not going to get -- if the intention was to -- they
21 say they want to stabilize the share price presumably so they
22 can convert but they haven't asked to convert, they haven't
23 made a motion to try to convert. So, what they're going to
24 do, what they're proposing to do is extraordinary, they're
25 going to say cut off the life blood of the company now and

1 we'll just wait and see if we're going to convert.

2 Now, I want to tell you that in discussions I had
3 with Mr. Kehrli, one possible end game that was suggested to
4 me was to try to take over the corporate shell of the company.
5 I don't know if the intention of this motion is to drive the
6 company into bankruptcy is part of some other strategy. I
7 think the best way to do this is let them -- I don't think
8 this motion should be granted. I think if they want, they can
9 try to pursue the \$151,000 which I've been trying mightily to
10 get them and, as Mr. Kehrli states in his affidavit, it's been
11 offered to him but just in terms different from what we
12 agreed, I understand that, or there are other practical things
13 we can try to do, but I think this relief they're seeking, I
14 think it is unwarranted.

15 I think they're not likely to succeed on the merits.
16 I mean all the arguments we made in connection with the first
17 motion I would incorporate here. I think the note itself has
18 severe problems but, most of all, this relief that is sought
19 here is misguided, it is going to do the opposite of what they
20 want and I think it would be a huge mistake to grant it.

21 THE COURT: Anything in reply?

22 MR. KEHRLI: Yes, Your Honor. First of all, I do
23 want to say to Mr. Press that I find bringing up what we had
24 in a sort of private conversation on the record was a little
25 inappropriate. That is not the end game here. The end game

1 is to stop the shares from being taken and sold away by both
2 related shareholders and GHS. It is clearly happening. As
3 Exhibit B to Mr. Lerner's declaration, you can see the trade
4 volume is higher than it was when we started this action. So,
5 whether it is Mr. Braun who received a stock compensation
6 package upon his resignation or whether it is GHS, someone is
7 converting, someone is selling, someone is profiting, it is
8 not us, we were one of the first note holders here. That is
9 my client's issue. My client is entitled to convert this
10 stock at a profit.

11 THE COURT: What about Mr. Press's point that that's
12 not what your motion is seeking?

13 MR. KEHRLI: Because if defendant can no longer
14 offer these conversions to everyone else, it will put
15 defendant in a position where they have to honor our
16 agreement, the first agreement, and if they start honoring it,
17 then, you know, we would make a motion to the Court to lift
18 these restrictions.

19 THE COURT: But wait, stop, roll it back a bit. The
20 note was not converted upon your demand, that was what you
21 were entitled to, to convert the note.

22 MR. KEHRLI: Correct.

23 THE COURT: They did not do that.

24 MR. KEHRLI: Correct.

25 THE COURT: You're not asking now to convert the

1 note because it has lost so much value that that wouldn't give
2 you the return that your client is seeking, but that's what
3 the note entitled you to, to convert.

4 MR. KEHRLI: Yes, we are trying to maintain the
5 status quo of the stock price which, as I think we've
6 demonstrated, has plummeted. The value of the entire note has
7 now plummeted.

8 THE COURT: I understand but the note entitled you
9 to \$75,000 at 8 percent and that you are entitled to convert
10 the note on demand. They failed to allow the conversion which
11 led to the lawsuit, led to the request for preliminary
12 injunctive relief, but now what you are seeking is different.
13 You're not seeking to convert the note, you're seeking to
14 freeze the defendant's ability to convert any notes.

15 MR. KEHRLI: That's correct, Your Honor. We want
16 to level the playing field that we're not being allowed to
17 convert, they've shown no intention to let us convert but they
18 are favoring certain investors including insiders, the
19 legality of which I can't speak to, but there are several
20 people converting, several people, companies. At this point
21 we'd like to level the playing field, stop the bleeding and
22 pursue our original claims on terms where we can see an end,
23 where there are shares left for my client to convert.

24 THE COURT: Good segue. Thank you very much for
25 that segue. The case has settled for a sum certain, that was

1 before the Court and is binding and enforceable. What do you
2 say to that?

3 MR. KEHRLI: Upon defendant's breach, we're no
4 longer bound by that contract.

5 THE COURT: Well, you cite a case for that
6 proposition but upon reading those cases, I don't find that
7 they support your position. You're citing to a Judge Koeltl
8 case and in the Judge Koeltl case -- let me just pull it
9 out -- so, your reliance is on NAS Electronics, Inc. versus
10 Transtech Electronics PTE, Ltd., 262 F.Supp. 2d 134, 145,
11 (SDNY 2003), and you rely on this case for the proposition
12 that you may pursue your original claim against VAPE and I
13 find that your reliance on that case was misplaced. In that
14 case judgment had been entered against plaintiffs in the
15 amount of \$3.2 million after they breached the settlement
16 agreement. Plaintiffs then filed a new action in state court
17 which was removed to the Southern District of New York arguing
18 that defendant had breached the contract for failure to
19 perform on the settlement agreement. The Court granted the
20 defendant summary judgment on the plaintiff's breach of
21 contract claim holding that the defendants, the non-breaching
22 parties were discharged from performing any further
23 obligations under the contract after the breach and that they
24 could elect to terminate the contract and sue for damages.
25 That's not the situation we have here, Mr. Kehrli.

1 MR. KEHRLI: Your Honor, in my papers I tried to
2 frame and I thought I made clear that when you go through that
3 contract, there were a series of events that had to occur for
4 the next event to happen. Event one was the money had to come
5 into my firm's escrow; event two, there was an assignment;
6 event three were the mutual general releases.

7 THE COURT: And you did not do any of those steps.
8 Step one didn't happen and you didn't do step two and step
9 three.

10 MR. KEHRLI: Right.

11 THE COURT: Which, extrapolating from Judge Koeltl's
12 decision, you would be relieved of step two and step three
13 because they didn't deposit the money into the escrow account.
14 It doesn't mean that you get to start over at square one and
15 that there is no settlement agreement.

16 MR. KEHRLI: It is our position that we would be
17 entitled to any general remedy under contract law and that in
18 this case due to the delays, the decline in the financial
19 situation of VAPE and, frankly, the bad faith that went into
20 the settlement agreement, that we should be placed in the
21 position we were prior to entering into this agreement.

22 THE COURT: But, again, do you recognize that
23 there's a big difference between the case that you're citing
24 to the Court, the Judge Koeltl case, and the case that you are
25 involved in against VAPE?

1 MR. KEHRLI: I do, Your Honor, and the only last
2 thing I would add is that if Your Honor were to hold us to the
3 damages that we incurred as a result of this breach, they
4 would be very similar to our damages in the beginning of this
5 case because we feel that this delay has caused much more harm
6 than -- it's just extending things longer and longer while the
7 company deteriorates.

8 THE COURT: But, again, there was a binding and
9 enforceable settlement agreement entered into before the Court
10 and then reduced to a writing which settled the case for a sum
11 certain; why would that not be sufficient?

12 MR. KEHRLI: Because I think it relates back to the
13 other case I cited.

14 THE COURT: Which is Media Group versus HSN Direct
15 International Limited, 202 F.R.D. 110 (SDNY 2001). It's a
16 Judge Lynch case which again you've cited but I don't believe
17 it supports your position. In that case Judge Lynch denied
18 plaintiff's motion to amend a complaint to add a claim of
19 rescission after defendant allegedly failed to comply with the
20 settlement agreement. Judge Lynch stated that the burden of a
21 rescinded settlement agreement on the parties and on the Court
22 would be particularly severe and basically Judge Lynch said
23 that you shouldn't be able to then use that failure to comply
24 with the settlement agreement to add or amend because people
25 would manipulate their strategy in civil cases; instead of

1 acting to effectuate a settlement, they would use that as one
2 more reason to add relief.

3 MR. KEHRLI: I think the same general premise
4 applies here. The manipulation that's occurring is defendant
5 seeing the bar set here based on our original claims and
6 saying I'll agree to this 151, maybe we'll make it, maybe we
7 won't but that will at least set the bar here precluding my
8 client from going back to his original claims and that
9 completely undermines the settlement process.

10 THE COURT: But this is the part that I don't
11 understand, the note was a \$75,000 note, I understand it had
12 an 8 percent interest, when you were looking to convert the
13 note, the value was at a certain amount. Nobody has told me
14 when you first asked to convert and it was not the full amount
15 of the note, it was over \$1,000 but under \$2,000 of the note,
16 nobody told me what the value would have been had the
17 conversion happened at that very moment. Likewise, nobody has
18 told me now what the difference would be on the value if you
19 converted the whole note and my thought is that when you
20 bargained for \$151,000, that your clients are smart enough
21 business people that that would cover their entire exposure
22 here.

23 MR. KEHRLI: During our conference with Your Honor
24 we showed you several different calculations. If you'll
25 recall, it was the average of five days --

1 THE COURT: I'm so sorry, I don't, Mr. Kehrli, it's
2 not part of the motion and I don't keep those numbers in my
3 head.

4 MR. KEHRLI: I apologize. I will explain those
5 figures. It was an average of five days of five different
6 trading points in each of those days and it calculated out to
7 certain numbers. Now, we concede in both our opening papers
8 and our reply that it is nearly impossible to calculate this
9 with any precision. As I mentioned earlier, there's been a
10 400 percent change. There's changes in trading volume.

11 THE COURT: But why isn't the \$151,000 that the case
12 settled for sufficient?

13 MR. KEHRLI: It was sufficient at that time because
14 my client was willing to let all of this go for that amount of
15 money on that particular day.

16 THE COURT: I understand but we're now two months
17 down the road.

18 MR. KEHRLI: We are.

19 THE COURT: A month and a half down the road.

20 MR. KEHRLI: We are, Your Honor, and, again, the
21 stock price keeps going down.

22 THE COURT: The stock price may fluctuate but the
23 amount that the case settled for would be the same amount.

24 MR. KEHRLI: That's correct, Your Honor, but I mean
25 two months have passed, my client did not enter into that

1 agreement for the purposes of getting a judgment against a
2 company that, as we both essentially admitted, doesn't have
3 the money to pay it.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 Do you want to be heard on this, Mr. Press?

6 MR. PRESS: I do, Your Honor. First of all, I think
7 that the idea the stock has to be -- well, strike that, strike
8 that.

9 I just want to return to the deal that we
10 negotiated. It was my understanding that \$151,000 represented
11 a compromise between my client's position that the note was
12 not enforceable and also our differing monetary calculations
13 for what the damages would be for failure to perform the
14 conversion, okay. We had differences of opinion. Our number
15 would be -- even if the note was enforceable, our number was
16 south of \$151,000. Theirs, of course, was far more than
17 \$151,000. \$151,000 was a fair compromise under the
18 circumstances and we agreed to it.

19 At this point one thing I find interesting is they
20 complain that the stock price is sinking, okay, and so they
21 say we need this relief so we can stabilize the stock price
22 because it is getting -- because, in effect, they're saying we
23 want to convert but what we could get for the shares is
24 getting less and less and less but they do have this
25 liquidated \$151,000. As Your Honor said, it doesn't change.

1 I don't know why they don't want that, why are they pursuing
2 this, I simply don't understand.

3 THE COURT: I think you do understand, Mr. Press,
4 and I sort of understand that there are things going on behind
5 the scenes, whether we're going to be able to reach behind the
6 scenes, they negotiated in good faith and they feel they've
7 been manipulated by somebody who is pulling the strings at
8 VAPE. I see that. However, again, I don't know that this
9 motion is the answer to that. Again, they have been
10 exceedingly courteous in not trying to say that there was bad
11 faith. They believe that you and your client at the time
12 intended to settle the case on the terms that had been agreed
13 to. So, I would not push them past that position. However,
14 whether Braun was a puppet, whether Braun had any influence
15 over the GHS people who seem to be the sticking point here, I
16 don't know. I do believe that the plaintiffs have a good
17 faith interest in getting their money out of VAPE and that
18 they're trying to do it in a way that will exert their
19 position and will not be to their detriment in the market.
20 So, if every investor could be manipulated by somebody behind
21 the scenes, which I believe is what LG Capital thinks is
22 happening with VAPE, that would undermine their position in
23 the market. So, I do think that there are things that are
24 going on here that lead LG Capital in good faith to seek the
25 relief they're seeking. I just want to hear is there any end

1 argument regarding the motion?

2 MR. PRESS: Well, I just, having heard what you just
3 said, Your Honor, I just first to need to quickly address,
4 I've been a participant in all these negotiations and my
5 impression, I'm just a lawyer but my impression is that
6 everybody wanted the deal to happen, everybody did it in good
7 faith. My only question about GHS I think and my subjective
8 impression of GHS is that when the gentleman who was on the
9 phone with Mr. Braun said yes, he wasn't thinking everything
10 through and then he kind of woke up with --

11 THE COURT: That's ridiculous, there's a federal
12 court on the end of the other line --

13 MR. PRESS: Yeah.

14 THE COURT: -- and he wasn't thinking it through and
15 then --

16 MR. PRESS: He's not my client, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Quite frankly, if GHS was named as a
18 party here, I would find that there had been apparent
19 authority but GHS is not a party here so, again, my hands are
20 tied as to GHS's involvement.

21 Anything else on the motion?

22 MR. PRESS: Well, once again, I just want to close
23 on the fact that the relief they're seeking, I understand they
24 have a complaint, I understand their complaint, we've
25 discussed it. I just think that the relief they're seeking

1 here is clearly not the answer, it is self-defeating, it is
2 not authorized under the law, it is not narrowly tailored to
3 achieve any purpose. They say this will stabilize the stock
4 price. How do they know. Stock prices go up and down in
5 companies all the time. How can they say this is going to
6 have that effect, I think it's really a stretch and it's going
7 to cause such a damage to VAPE that I don't think anybody
8 really wants this and I think it would be a big mistake to
9 grant the relief. Thank you, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Thank you. We're going to take a
11 moment, I'll be right back.

12 MR. KEHRLI: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 (Recess taken.)

14 THE COURT: The Honorable Carol B. Amon referred
15 plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction to me for a
16 Report and Recommendation in accordance with 28, United States
17 Code, Section 636(b). My Report and Recommendation to Judge
18 Amon is as follows. I have considered the parties' papers and
19 I have heard oral argument. I respectfully recommend that
20 plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction should be
21 denied as plaintiff has not met the irreparable harm standard
22 for preliminary injunctive relief. Nonetheless, as there is
23 no dispute that VAPE has breached the binding and enforceable
24 settlement agreement, I recommend that judgment should be
25 entered in favor of LG against VAPE in the amount of \$151,000.

1 I recommend that plaintiff's motion for a
2 preliminary injunction should be denied as I find that LG has
3 not sufficiently demonstrated that it will suffer irreparable
4 harm in the absence of preliminary relief. I also agree that
5 the relief that plaintiff is seeking is extraordinary. As the
6 parties know, the Court must pay "particular attention to
7 whether the remedies available at law, such as monetary
8 damages, are inadequate to compensate for that injury,"
9 and I am citing to Salinger versus Colting, 607 F.3d 68, 80
10 (2d Cir. 2010). While imminent insolvency may be an exception
11 to the general rule that a monetary injury does not constitute
12 irreparable harm, "a movant must show the risk of insolvency
13 is likely and imminent." CRP/Extell Parcel I, L.P. versus
14 Cuomo, 394 F.App'x 779, 782 (2d Cir. 2010.) These cases were
15 all relied upon by Judge Amon in her earlier decision.

16 First, the Court is not persuaded that monetary
17 damages are inadequate to compensate plaintiff's injury and it
18 seems to me that LG has conflated or confused the injury it
19 alleges from VAPE's breach of the note's obligation with the
20 injury it alleges from the breach of the settlement agreement
21 for the sum of \$151,000. Second, even if this Court were to
22 agree that monetary damages are insufficient to compensate
23 plaintiff for the injury, plaintiff has not shown that the
24 risk of VAPE's insolvency is likely and imminent. While
25 VAPE's breach of the settlement agreement undermines any

1 confidence in VAPE's financial future, it does not establish
2 that VAPE is imminently insolvent. As Judge Amon found in her
3 initial denial of plaintiff's motion for a preliminary
4 injunction, and as defendant's counsel stated here today,
5 there is no material difference between what was before Judge
6 Amon in May and what has been presented here today as to
7 VAPE's imminent insolvency. LG has "at most shown that there
8 is a possibility that the company may be insolvent before the
9 conclusion of the litigation, but this possibility is
10 speculative and cannot satisfy [LG's] burden." And I'm citing
11 to Judge Amon's memo and order which cites to a Southern
12 District of New York 2003 case, Meringolo. Further, LG does
13 not cite to any cases in support of their position where a
14 preliminary injunction was granted on similar facts.
15 Therefore, as LG has failed to demonstrate an irreparable
16 injury, the Court recommends that their motion for a
17 preliminary injunction should be denied.

18 However, in light of VAPE's breach of the settlement
19 agreement and Paragraph 3 of the parties' signed settlement
20 agreement which states this Court "may retain jurisdiction
21 over this matter and may enter judgment or preliminary relief
22 against either party in the event of any failure to comply
23 with the terms contained in the settlement agreement," I
24 recommend that a judgment in the amount of \$151,000 be entered
25 in favor of LG Capital Funding LLC against VAPE Holdings,

1 Inc., and I cite to the settlement agreement which is filed at
2 ECF number 21-1 and it is Exhibit A to ECF number 25-4. I
3 find no basis or reason to delay the entry of the judgment
4 against defendant in this action. In making this
5 recommendation, I also find an alternative basis to deny
6 plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction, that is that
7 upon the entry of judgment, the preliminary relief plaintiff
8 seeks is moot. "A preliminary injunction is, by definition,
9 preliminary relief and any preliminary injunction would no
10 longer be operative after the entry of the final judgment."
11 Equiom(Isle of Mann) Limited versus Smith Electric Vehicles
12 U.S. Corp. No. 15-CV-2337 (RJS) and 15-CV-2783 (RJS), 2015 WL
13 55470765, *1 (SDNY September 18, 201) (citation omitted).

14 In Equiom, defendants breached the settlement
15 agreement by failing to make payments of over \$1.7 million and
16 plaintiff moved for preliminary and other relief. Judge
17 Sullivan denied plaintiff's motion for a preliminary
18 injunction and ordered entry of the judgment. Here, as in
19 Equiom, I find that entry of judgment against defendant in the
20 amount the parties had agreed upon renders plaintiff's motion
21 for a preliminary injunction moot. As set forth in Equiom,
22 should judgment be entered against defendant, LG may seek all
23 post-judgment relief that it is entitled to as set forth in
24 Rules 69 and 70 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

25 In conclusion, I recommend that plaintiff's motion

1 for a preliminary injunction should be denied but that
2 judgment should be entered in favor of LG Capital against VAPE
3 in the amount of \$151,000 as the parties agreed to both on the
4 record before me at the June 8th, 2016 settlement conference
5 and as set forth in the signed settlement agreement dated
6 June 24th, 2016.

7 Objections: Pursuant to 28, United States Code,
8 Section 636(b)(1) and Rule 72(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of
9 Civil Procedure, the parties have fourteen days from today's
10 hearing, until August 31st, 2016, to electronically file
11 written objections. Any request for an extension of time to
12 file an objections must be made within the fourteen-day
13 period. Failure to file a timely objection to this Report
14 generally waives any further judicial review. Cite to
15 Marcella versus Capital Distribution Physicians' Health Plan,
16 Inc. 293 F.3d 42, 46, (2d Cir. 2002).

17 Is there anything else that needs to be addressed on
18 behalf of the plaintiff?

19 MR. KEHRLI: No, Your Honor, thank you.

20 THE COURT: Is there anything further that needs to
21 be addressed on behalf of the defendant?

22 MR. PRESS: No, Your Honor, thank you.

23 THE COURT: Then this matter is adjourned. Thank
24 you.

25 (Time noted: 11:30 a.m.) (End of proceedings.)